

Dry Cask Storage Resolution Ok'd

By CLAIRE MASSIMO

Several town boards have now given their approval to a resolution seeking secured dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station.

Spent fuel rods are currently kept in a cooled pool at the facility. Entergy spokesman David Tarantino said the company owns ten nuclear power plants throughout the country, and uses both types of storage. The issue is one of capacity, he said. Entergy currently estimates that it will have to begin dry cask storage at Pilgrim in 2012, when its pool reaches maximum capacity, Tarantino said.

The resolution states that the town of Duxbury advocates the immediate start of removing spent nuclear fuel rods from the pool to dry cask storage as an interim measure to protect local residents.

Selectmen last week unanimously voted their support of the resolution, which had already been approved by the Board of Health and Nuclear Advisory Committee.

"I believe fairly strongly that we should support this article. I'm not sure we'll get it, but that's besides the point. We are sending a message," said Selectman Andre Martecchini.

The selectmen were also unanimous in saying that their support of the resolution should not be taken as a criticism of Entergy, which runs the plant, or an indication that they necessarily believe the pool storage that exists now is unsafe.

"I don't believe [pool storage] is unsafe, or that Entergy is making it unsafe. It's likely to take four years to implement this, and I'd rather start sooner than later. It just makes all kinds of sense," said Selectman Betsy Sullivan.

The resolution, which is non-binding, will be brought before Town Meeting in March.

"I'm happy to see it at Town Meeting and see how the residents feel. It is a strong guide to politicians," Martecchini said.

Mary Lampert, chair of the

nuclear advisory committee, says the committee will continue to gather signatures for the resolution, appear before other boards, and conduct informational session.

"They're all small steps, but then you finally fill the pail," Lampert said.

An earlier, more complex, resolution that Lampert sponsored as a private citizen will be removed, once the streamlined, selectmen approved version is accepted as an article on the warrant for Town Meeting, Lampert said.